

JUNE 19TH, 2020 LEAGUE UPDATE

Today we are able to meet another milestone with Alberta's Relaunch and Alberta Soccer's [Return to Play Phase 2 Return to Modified Games](#) commencing and allowing soccer to start to introduce modified games.

"In this phase soccer organizations will be given the opportunity to train and play soccer games with the ability for organizations to allow physical contact within a cohort sporting group." *ASA Phase 2 – Return to Modified Games.*

There are very specific activities and steps that teams and players are expected to adhere to throughout this stage of the relaunch. It is important to remember that although the State of Emergencies have been lifted **IF** public restrictions are reinstated the direction from AHS for our sport is to either return to Phase 1 or cease activity immediate compliance is required.

Within the Return to Modified Games stage the term *cohort* is used extensively.

A Sport Cohort must be limited to a maximum of 50 individuals who remain together for the duration of Alberta's Stage 2 of Relaunch. Individuals may participate in only ONE cohort.

A Sport Cohort consists of players, referees AND coaches, trainers, and/or managers who DO NOT maintain a physical distance of 2 meters at all times from the cohort group.

Sport Cohorts do not need to keep 2 meters apart however, physical distancing should be practiced when not participating on the field (i.e. on sidelines, before and after activities etc.).

Organizations must keep records of the individuals assigned to each sport cohort and ensure that sufficient oversight is provided to ensure compliance with health guidelines.

To move your club or team into [Phase 2 – Modified Games](#) there are a number of steps that you must complete:

- 🗺️ **Individual Club/Team** implement the required minimum standards for soccer programming as per the [Return to Soccer – Phase 2 Guidelines](#).
- 🗺️ **Individual Club/Team** completes the [self assessment tool](#) and submits to Canada Soccer.

- 🗸 **Individual Club/Team/Districts** confirm 2 individuals from their program have reviewed the [Return to Train Webinar](#) provided by Alberta Soccer. (The presentation slides can be found [here](#)).
- 🗸 **Canada Soccer** provides feedback on completed self-assessment. **Districts with Alberta Soccer** review Canada Soccer feedback and verify with Club/Team their approval to offer organized training.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR TEAM?

Next week we will open registration for [Phase 2 – Return to Modified Games](#). Our target start date for this program to you remains July 6th. We are waiting for City of Calgary to confirm what Athletic Park fields will be open and available to our use. Currently the Calgary Soccer Centre has not opened for Indoor programs. Once we know more on the fields we will also be able to establish the price for this phase. Players and coaches who have already registered and paid their Affiliation Fee for the summer of 2020 will not be required to pay that fee again.

We will provide a few options for you during this Return to Modified Game Phase. Consider what is most suitable for you and your team. Currently the duration of this Phase is unknown, anticipate at least a month.

- 🗸 Determine who you want your cohort to be. Do you wish to be responsible to find and register **up to 50 individuals** to be your cohort or do you want CUSA to form your cohort from interested individuals? This is a closed group and individuals cannot move between cohorts without first removing themselves for 14 days. The cohort group must be registered with CUSA.
- 🗸 Determine what quadrant would be your preferred location for activity (subject to facility availability). Currently we have access to Athletic Park fields at Shouldice, Glenmore, Ernest Manning and the Calgary Soccer Centre.
- 🗸 Determine what activities you are wanting within the cohort – are you looking to offer training sessions, scrimmages or mini games or a combination. Potentially you could be assigned a field for your cohort in an evening and left to plan your own use of it – training; 7v7; 11v11 etc. At this time we only expect the Calgary Soccer Centre to be set up for 7v7 play, although you will be able to improvise at the other fields.
- 🗸 Determine if your cohort wants to have officials assigned (not available until after June 26th). Officials will count toward the maximum 50 number and will be assigned to your cohort **only** for the duration of Phase 2. If you want officials we would be considering a group of 4 or 5 officials to ensure we can assign based on their availability therefore decreasing your player coach count to 45.
- 🗸 Determine your team's (cohort's) risk management plan that will enable you to meet the guidelines outlined by [Alberta Health Services](#) and Alberta Soccer. Ensure you are familiar with the Team/Club Checklist. (A series of checklists are in the [Appendix of the Return to Modified Games – pages 14-35](#))
 - Who will be responsible for equipment and sanitization of the same;

- Ensure you have an established protocol for all participants to wash or sanitize hands and personal equipment, before, during and after training or playing.
- Identify who will be responsible for contact tracing logs for all participants for every soccer activity. Must be maintained for a minimum of 2 weeks. You can also encourage your entire cohort group to get the [ABTrace Together mobile App](#). It can serve as your contact tracing tool as well.

📌 To help with some suggested on-field activities ASA has developed the following: [ASA Back to Play - Session Plan Guidance & Templates](#).

Player /Coach Registration

Prior to players or coaches registering each team will need to ensure that all participants understand that they can only be **part of one sport cohort at a time** if they wish to be either a player or referee. Coaches and other team personnel may be involved in multiple sport cohorts as team officials if they practice social distance at all times. You will not be able to coach outside your cohort and play in CUSA unless you social distance at all times as a coach.

Once an Individual Club/Team have completed the steps necessary to Return to Soccer (outlined on page 1) then player registration can occur. **At this time registration is online only.** All players will need to access the registration through their online [RAMP account](#). New players can create a new member account.

- 📌 All players and coaches must be registered **PRIOR** to participating in training.
- 📌 For the *Return to Modified Games* phase ID cards **will not** be required unless your cohort requests assigned officials, then all players and team officials will require a photo ID card..
- 📌 At the time of registration each player will be assessed a **\$15 affiliation fee** that is mandatory. This fee is your ASA/CSA affiliation which includes your player insurance. Payment by credit card online is required.
- 📌 Coaches, the affiliation fee is only due once. If you are a player/coach, please register as a player first and email info@cusa.ab.ca to be registered as a coach without having to pay the fee a second time.
- 📌 The affiliation fees will not be charged to the players or coaches again if the team or training group participates in the mini leagues or league activities later in the summer.
- 📌 All players and coaches must complete the new waiver and declaration of compliance to be eligible to participate. These are included as part of the online registration process.
- 📌 Teams will be responsible to ensure that their spectators remain the required distance away from the field and practice social distancing. If spectators are within the 2 meter distance of the bench or playing field they are considered to be part of the cohort group.

Membership is reminded that as part of the registration process for 2020 you are signing waivers that indicate you will comply with all the directives outlined within Alberta Soccer's Return to Soccer Plan. Ensure that you are familiar with the Plan's requirements of you as a team or club. The ability to return to play safely relies on everyone doing their part to align activities with those outlined by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Soccer Association. If you have questions contact via email, the CUSA Office and we will assist with the clarification of these guidelines.

CUSA is committed to assisting our membership as move closer to the safe and measured return to training and playing the sport of soccer. At each step along the way the risk of choosing to participate in the activity ultimately remains with each participant to determine their comfort level. CUSA continues to be part of the conversations with Alberta Soccer, City of Calgary and our colleagues with CMSA and CWSA working towards resuming the game. The information that we provide you is subject to change based upon information that the Government of Alberta, Alberta Soccer and the City of Calgary release to us. We will continue to provide you with updates as new information become available.

Stay safe and healthy; enjoy getting back onto the field and resuming soccer activity.

CUSA

